

ABOUT THE PIPELINE

The Pipeline publications help the Department to explain to you about the work we do. If, after reading this publication, you have questions or suggestions for future feature articles that you believe other customers would be interested in, please let us know. By hearing from our customers regularly, we can complete our mission to serve you better.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Guy P. Russo

MATTABASSETT REGIONALIZATION PROGRESS

This newsletter comes to you at a time when the department is winding down from the installation of the force-main portion of the Mattabassett Regionalization Project and ready to bid the pump station portion of the project in May 2016.

The force-main portion of the project is substantially complete as of this writing and should be fully concluded by early summer 2016. It is anticipated that a bid will be publicly noticed in May of 2016 with a return date for bid opening late June, early July 2016.

Members of the Mattabassett Building Committee have been meeting on a monthly basis and have been working diligently to bring this project in on time and with the funds that have currently been allocated by the voters.

Additionally, the CT DEEP has authorized all Clean Water funding for the remainder of this project and all permits for the pump station have been issued leading for a clear path to completion of this most vital project.

I look forward to updating you at the next issuance of the pipeline.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WPCA

*By Dale Aldieri
Chairman*

As Chairman of the WPCA, I am often reminded of the tremendous amount of back office work done by members of the Water and Sewer Department to guaranteed compliance with State and Federal Law. The most recent troubles in Flint, Michigan, cause me to inquire the staff as to what actions we were taking to prevent any similar incidents. As I expected, I was advised that our staff has been routinely testing for lead and copper throughout the system in compliance with Department of Public Health Regulations.

Additionally, and through sufficient funding and oversight by the WPCA, the staff has been provided all necessary equipment and chemicals to both treat the water for PH, as well as, adding agents into the water that prevent the leaching of copper and lead into our drinking water. Residents of the City of Middletown should remain assured that the water they are consuming from the Middletown Water Department complies with all State and Federal Regulations and no short-cuts or cost trimming that may imperil the public safety has ever taken place, nor will take place. *Drink Up!*



OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY RELATIVE TO THE SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

By Robert Young, Deputy Director

THE SEWER DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Middletown Water & Sewer Department (Department) owns, operates, maintains, repairs and replaces the sanitary sewer collection system located in its Sanitary Sewer Service Area (See Figure #1).

The Department does not maintain the wye, tee/wye, saddle or chimney portions of the sanitary sewer collection system. (Also see Figure #1)

If the Department, during the course of its activities, determines that the Property Owner's (Owner) sanitary sewer main or lateral and/or any associated appurtenances are in need of maintenance, renewal, replacement or repair, the Department will notify the Owner as to the problem and shall not accept any liability for any subsequent problem or expense arising from said condition.

The Department shall determine the responsibility for maintenance, renewal, replacement or repair of any sanitary sewer main and/or sanitary sewer lateral. The Department shall, at its sole discretion, determine if it will renew, replace or repair any portion of the sanitary sewer collection system

Only employees of the Department or contractors approved by the Department will be allowed to make connections to sanitary sewer mains, sanitary sewer laterals and/or appurtenances.

The Department shall not be responsible for damages to personal property resulting from a sanitary sewer backup or that is caused by the failure of ancillary equipment, not owned by the Department, such as, but not limited to, grinder pumps, pump stations, pretreatment facilities, flow equalization facilities, separators, FOG management equipment, check valves, pressure fit cleanout plugs, and below grade facilities (e.g. toilets, slop sinks, washing machines etc.).

The Department is not responsible for the operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement or repair of any sanitary sewer lateral; including sanitary sewer laterals that provide service under any of the following conditions:

- A sanitary sewer lateral that passes through one building or dwelling unit and serves one or more buildings or dwelling units to the rear.
- A sanitary sewer lateral that serves more than one building or dwelling unit.

THE PROPERTY OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Owner shall own, operate, maintain, replace and repair any private sanitary sewer main, sanitary sewer lateral and associated appurtenances. The Owner shall maintain the wye, tee/wye, saddle and/or chimney. In the event of a blockage, it is the Owner's responsibility to relieve and/or repair the blockage within three (3) days of its discovery. Failure to do so may result in notification of the Building Department, Health Department and in cases where the blockage results in the release of sewage to the environment the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The City and the Department have no responsibility or liability with regards to those portions of an Owner's sewage collection system that are deemed to be the property of the Owner, including but not limited to, any sanitary sewer main, sanitary sewer lateral and appurtenance, which are to be owned, operated, maintained, repaired and/or replaced by the Owner.

The Owner shall be responsible for marking out, in accordance with CBYD procedures, any private sanitary sewer main, sanitary sewer lateral and associated appurtenances that are owned, operated, maintained, repaired and replaced by the Owner.

The Owner shall, at their own expense, be responsible for the installation, operation, maintenance, replacement and repair of any ancillary equipment, not owned by the Department, such as, but not limited to, grinder pumps, pump stations, pretreatment facilities, flow-equalization facilities, separators, FOG management equipment etc.

The Owner shall be responsible for ensuring that all discharges that ultimately flow to the public sanitary sewer collection system conform to the parameters set forth in the Regulations of the State of Connecticut.

Renewals, replacements, repairs and/or extensions of private sanitary sewer mains, sanitary sewer laterals, and/or appurtenances shall be made in accordance with Rules and Regulations of the Department. The Owner/

Applicant shall be responsible for all costs.

The Owner shall pay any and all bills issued by the Department in accordance with the Schedule of Rates, Charges and Fees.

Figure 2
Sanitary Sewer Lateral

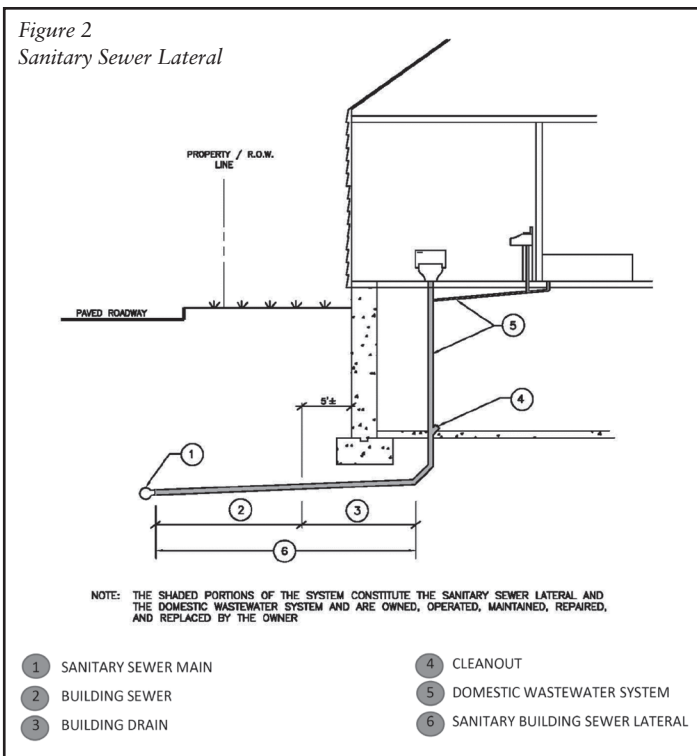
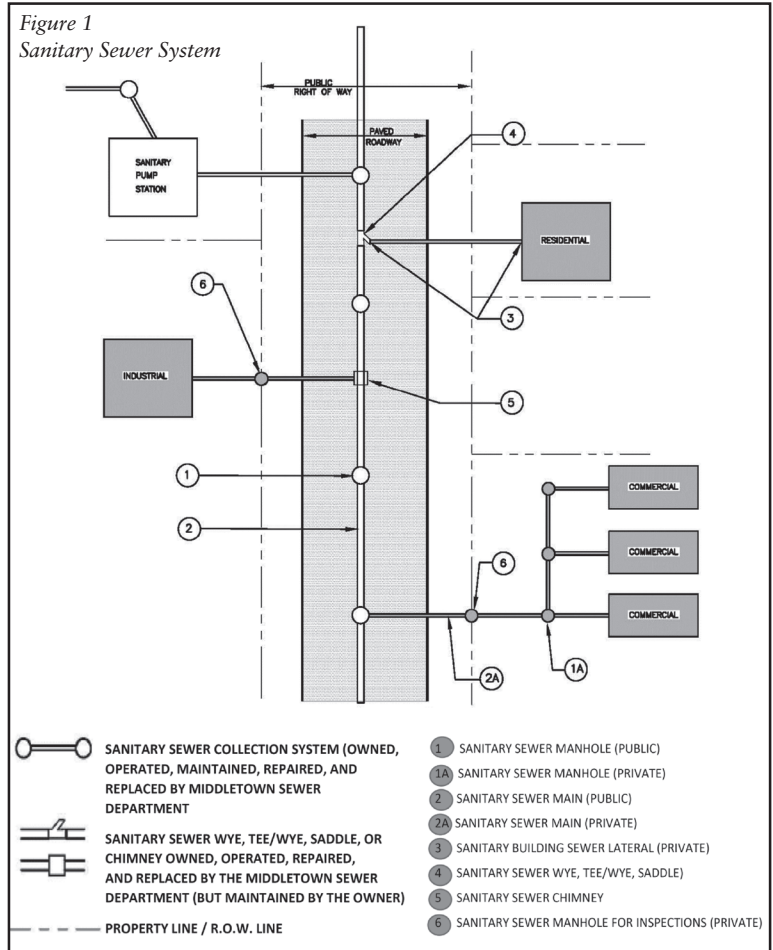


Figure 1
Sanitary Sewer System



SEWER BACKUPS

By Robert Young, Deputy Director

In the event of a sewer backup or blockage, contact the Middletown Sewer Department **Emergency Number at 860-638-3500** (Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.) **After normal business hours or on weekends and Holidays call 860-347-2541.**

Do not open the building sewer lateral clean-out cap until the sewer is checked by the Sewer Department. We will check the cause of the blockage free of charge any time of the day or night.

1.If a sewer backup or blockage occurs:

- Determine if the blockage or stoppage is located in only one fixture, or if all or most of the fixtures within the building are affected.
- If you are experiencing a sewage backup and it stops when you stop using water within your building then, your building sewer lateral may be blocked.
- If all fixtures are affected, contact the Sewer Division by calling the **Emergency number at 860-638-3500**

(during normal business hours) or 860-347-2541 (after normal business hours). This service is provided at no charge.

- The Sewer Department will check the public sanitary sewer main in order to determine if the blockage is related to the public sanitary sewer main or the building sewer lateral that serves your property. The public sanitary sewer main may be cleaned at this time to relieve the blockage or to help us discern the cause of the problem. A member of the Departments' Sewer Maintenance crew will let you know if the problem was caused by the public sanitary sewer saddle main or if the problem resides in your building sewer lateral or within the waste piping with your building.
- If the blockage has been determined to be caused by a blockage in your building sewer lateral, don't remove the cap on the cleanout! **It is advised that you should contact a licensed plumber to remove the blockage.**
- If the blockage is in the sewer main, a video of the sewer may be made in subsequent days to determine why the backup occurred. Corrective action by the Sewer Department will be implemented based upon the findings.

2. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the building sewer lateral serving your property. The building sewer lateral is the waste pipe that runs from the building to the public sanitary sewer main in the street.

Steps you can take to avoid a sewer backup in your home:

- Do not dispose of grease or cooking oil by pouring it down the drain. Discard in the trash instead.
- Do not flush rags, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, swifters, garbage or cigarette butts down the toilet.
- Do not dispose of plastics in the sanitary sewer system.
- Basement sump pumps should not be connected the waste piping or the building sewer lateral serving your building. They are a source of many of the building sewer lateral backups that we have responded to.
- Do not pour hazardous chemicals down the drain. The sanitary sewer system is not designed to handle hazardous materials. These chemicals are also dangerous to people working within the sewer system and at the wastewater treatment facility.

Did you also know?

- Storm runoff is collected in storm drains or catch basins, not the public sanitary sewer system. The storm sewer system is the responsibility of the Public Works Department at 860-638-4850.
- A building sewer lateral is the pipe connecting the waste piping in your building to the sewer main in the street. The property owner is responsible for its entire length. The Town owns the sanitary sewer main.
- A “clean out” is normally a threaded plug, commonly referred to as a “cap” which is located on your building sewer lateral. It is used to access the building sewer lateral for cleaning. The cap is usually found in the basement where the sewer pipe leaves the building.
- A loose or open cap can allow sewage to enter the home if a blockage occurs in the lateral or sanitary sewer main. If the cap is loose or removed, the City will not be responsible for cleanup or restitution of damages which may occur. Check your sewer clean out to make sure the cap is properly secured and that there is no leakage.
- If sewage is continuously entering the building, there may be a blockage in the public sanitary sewer main. The only way to correct this is to relieve the blockage. Immediately

call our Emergency Number (860-638-3500 or after hours at 860-347-2541.

WATER METER READING

By Michael Trevisan, Chief Meter Technician

The Middletown Water Department has started implementing a fully automated meter reading program. The goal of this program is to increase the speed of meter reading. The program will allow us to read water meters without entering your property. The program will reduce manual meter reading, increase billing accuracy and reduce estimated bills.

Installation generally takes less than an hour, is free and involves replacing your outside reader and your water meter. If you received a letter or received an estimated bill, you should call and schedule an appointment, please contact the Middletown Water Department at (860) 638-3501.

FEET TO THE FIRE CELEBRATION

By Rani Arbo, Festival Coordinator

Stroll down to Harbor Park on Saturday May 7th for ***Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter***, a festival that celebrates the Connecticut River, our environment, and the arts! From 12 noon to 5pm, enjoy live music, food trucks, craft vendors, workshops, art installations, and lots of activities for kids (fishing, magic, crafts and more). Environmental exhibitors will be on hand to share their passion for everything from backyard composting, to birding, local hiking trails, energy-efficient lighting, recycling, Harbor Park redevelopment plans, and much more.

While you're at the river, cheer on Middletown High School's crew team at their regatta beginning at 3 p.m. And, most importantly — ***don't miss special performances by Middletown's own Water and Sewer Department employees!*** For the last several months, our staff has been collaborating with Wesleyan students and Allison Orr, a visiting artist, to create performance pieces based on the important work they do in our community. Check the festival schedule for times.

Feet to the Fire on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/events/1677871875825177